

Application No. 10/521,486

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently amended) A cue sports cloth comprising a cloth having a base color with a playing surface having a design printed thereon; ~~characterised~~ characterized in that at least 30% of the area of the playing surface is printed with a camouflage design as defined by the function  $\Delta E_2 < k \Delta E_1$ , where  $\Delta E_1$  is a measure of the complexity of the design as defined as ~~herein~~,

$$\Delta E_1 = \sqrt{(L_1^* - L_2^*)^2 + (a_1^* - a_2^*)^2 + (b_1^* - b_2^*)^2}$$

wherein  $L_1^*$ ,  $a_1^*$ , and  $a_2^*$  are color coordinates of a first point and  $L_2^*$ ,  $a_2^*$ , and  $b_2^*$  are color coordinates of a second point within a 2 inch by 2 inch grid square on the cue sports cloth, and  $\Delta E_2$  is a measure of the ~~colour~~ color contrast of the design with respect to the base ~~colour~~ color of the cloth as defined as ~~herein~~,

$$\Delta E_2 = \sqrt{(L_3^* - L_4^*)^2 + (a_3^* - a_4^*)^2 + (b_3^* - b_4^*)^2}$$

wherein  $L_3^*$ ,  $a_3^*$ , and  $a_4^*$  are color coordinates of the base color and  $L_4^*$ ,  $a_4^*$ , and  $b_4^*$  are color coordinates of a point within a 2 inch by 2 inch grid square on the cue sports cloth that matches the base color most closely, and k is a constant with a value in the range 0 to 5.

2. (Currently amended) [[A]] The cue sports cloth according to claim 1, wherein the constant k has a value in the range 0 to 3 and preferably 0 to 2.

3. (Currently amended) [[A]] The cue sports cloth according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the camouflage design is further defined by a ~~colour~~ color complexity value  $\Delta E_1$  of 15 or more, ~~preferably 20 or more.~~

4. (Currently amended) [[A]] The cue sports cloth according to ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, wherein a camouflage design is printed on at least 60%, ~~and preferably at least 90%,~~ of the area of the playing surface.

5. (Currently amended) [[A]] The cue sports cloth according to ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, wherein a camouflage design is printed on all high wear areas of the playing surface.

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6. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The cue sports cloth according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the cloth is a wool or wool blend fabric, containing at least 60%, preferably at least 70%, and more preferably at least 90% wool.

7. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The cue sports cloth according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the cloth is a woven felted fabric.

8. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The cue sports cloth according to any one of claim ~~[[s]]~~ 1 to 6, wherein the cloth is a non-woven felted fabric.

9. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The cue sports cloth according to any one of claim ~~[[s]]~~ 1 to 6, wherein the cloth is a worsted fabric.

10. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The cue sports cloth according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the cloth is printed with dyes or inks applied to the surface of the base cloth.

11. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The cue sports cloth according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the cloth is printed with a ~~colouring~~ coloring agent selected from a group containing reactive dyes, acid dyes, pigments and mixtures thereof.

12. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The cue sports cloth according to claim 11, wherein the cloth is printed with acid dyes.

13. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The cue sports cloth according to any preceding claim 10, wherein the cloth is printed by inkjet printing.

14. (Currently amended) A cue sports table having a cue sports cloth as defined by any one of the preceding claim ~~[[s]]~~ 1.

15. (Currently amended) A method of printing a cue sports cloth comprising a base cloth having a base color with a playing surface; ~~characterised~~ characterized in that at least 30% of the area of the playing surface is printed with a camouflage design as

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defined by the function  $\Delta E_2 < k \Delta E_1$ , where  $\Delta E_1$  is a measure of the complexity of the design as defined as herein,

$$\Delta E_1 = \sqrt{(L_1 - L_2)^2 + (a_1 - a_2)^2 + (b_1 - b_2)^2}$$

wherein  $L_1$ ,  $a_1$ , and  $b_1$  are color coordinates of a first point and  $L_2$ ,  $a_2$ , and  $b_2$  are color coordinates of a second point within a 2 inch by 2 inch grid square on the cur sports cloth, and  $\Delta E_2$  is a measure of the ~~colour~~ color contrast of the design with respect to the base ~~colour~~ color of the cloth as defined as herein,

$$\Delta E_2 = \sqrt{(L_3 - L_4)^2 + (a_3 - a_4)^2 + (b_3 - b_4)^2}$$

wherein  $L_3$ ,  $a_3$ , and  $b_3$  are color coordinates of the base color and  $L_4$ ,  $a_4$ , and  $b_4$  are color coordinates of a point within a 2 inch by 2 inch grid square on the cur sports cloth that matches the base color most closely, and k is a constant with a value in the range 0 to 5.

16. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 15, wherein the constant k has a value in the range 0 to 3 and preferably 0 to 2.

17. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 15 or claim 16, wherein the camouflage design is further defined by a ~~colour~~ color complexity value  $\Delta E_1$  of greater than 15 or more, preferably 20 or more.

18. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to any one of claims 15 to 17, wherein a camouflage design is printed on at least 60%, ~~and preferably at least 80%, of the area of the playing surface~~.

19. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 15 to 18,~~ wherein a camouflage design is printed on all high wear areas of the playing surface.

20. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 15 to 19,~~ wherein the cloth is a wool or wool blend fabric, containing at least 60%, ~~preferably at least 70%, and more preferably at least 80% wool~~.

21. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 15 to 20,~~ wherein the cloth is a woven felted fabric.

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22. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The method according to any one of claim[[s]] 15 to 20,~~  
wherein the cloth is a non-woven felted fabric.

23. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The method according to any one of claim[[s]] 15 to 20,~~  
wherein the cloth is a worsted fabric.

24. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The method according to any one of claim[[s]] 15 to 23,~~  
wherein the cloth is printed with dyes or inks applied to the surface of the base cloth.

25. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The method according to any one of claim[[s]] 15 to 24,~~  
wherein the cloth is printed with a ~~colouring~~ coloring agent selected from a group  
containing reactive dyes, acid dyes, pigments and mixtures thereof.

26. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The method according to claim 25,~~ wherein the cloth is  
printed with acid dyes.

27. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The method according to any one of claim[[s]] 24 to 26,~~  
wherein the cloth is printed by inkjet printing.

28. (Currently amended) A cue sports cloth printing method comprising designing the  
pattern to be applied such that there are substantially no areas of plain ~~colour~~ color  
more than ~~450mm~~ 50mm diameter in substantially all locations on the cloth ~~table~~  
which sustain high levels of cue stab damage ~~as hereinbefore defined~~.

29. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The method according to claim 28,~~ in which at least  
two further ~~colours~~ colors are found within a 10mm radius of substantially any spot of  
a ~~colour~~ color in substantially all areas of the cloth in locations that suffer from high  
levels of damage ~~as hereinbefore defined~~.

30. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]] The method according to claim 28, or claim 29 wherein~~  
at least one further shade of a ~~colour~~ color is found within a 10mm radius of  
substantially any spot of ~~colour~~ color in substantially all areas of the cloth in locations  
that suffer from damage to a low extent ~~as hereinbefore defined~~.

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*DISCUSSION*

The amendments to claims 1 and 15 have support in the specification on page 4, lines 3-17. Support for the amendment to claim 28 can be found on page 6, lines 11-12. The remaining amendments are to delete multiple dependencies, correct spelling, and correct antecedent basis.

In view of the foregoing, the application is considered in proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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